FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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North Central Regional Transit District Accepts the Retirement of Executive Director

Santa Fe - The North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) board announced today the retirement of Executive Director, Josette Lucero. Lucero's retirement comes on the heels of some major accomplishments. The organization is well positioned to move forward with a new executive director. During Lucero's administration the District was able to garner public passage of a Gross Receipts Tax to support both regional public transportation and Railrunner expenses, develop a functional organization from the ground up, and garner major awards for increasing ridership. The organization recently earned an Award of Achievement for highest percentage growth in transit passenger ridership in New Mexico for a rural transit program. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Region 6 presented the NCRTD with the award for Fiscal Year 2010 under its Federal Section 5311 Rural Transit Program.

Through the leadership of Chair, Rosemary Romero, a succession plan is being developed by Southwest Planning and Marketing and the Executive Director Search Committee. The committee has been tasked with reviewing resumes and making a recommendation to the board at an upcoming meeting. As part of the succession, the board will develop a plan that could include an interim director to work with the board and who can provide the leadership left by the exit of Lucero.

"These have been some of the most challenging weeks for the organization; and I know it has been difficult for Josette. She has done a great job getting this organization off the ground. We should not forget the fact that Josette was there at the beginning when regional transportation and the NCRTD were merely concepts" said Tim Vigil, Board Member representing the Pueblo of Pojoaque.

Romero added, "The board has been working hard with outside support to develop longer term options for maximizing the use of GRT dollars for service in the region and developing a cohesive regional effort. It has not been without intense discussions with member entities, but we are all committed to a regional effort and see the benefits for our various communities to work towards a model that works for all."

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